

GUIDED MISSILE AND ASTRONAUTICS INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

9 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: ~~Chairman~~^{The} United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: International Metric System of Units

1. The Guided Missile ^{who?} and Astronautics Intelligence Committee (GMAIC) has received a query from the UK concerning our views on the adoption of the international metric system of units for intelligence reporting. Based on this query, we have conducted an informal survey of the missile and space components of member agencies. The responses have been generally favorable. Any conservatism in the responses derives almost exclusively from the problems anticipated during the period immediately following a decision to adopt the metric system. There is unanimous agreement among members that the long-range benefits of converting to the metric system far outweigh any temporary difficulties that might occur during the transitional period.

2. Accordingly, GMAIC ^{SUGGESTS} ~~recommends~~ that USIB take the following course of action:

^{USIB}
a. Endorse in principle a policy that would lead eventually to official community-wide use of the metric system of units.

^{Recommend that the Chairman, USIB,}
b. Appoint a panel representing the technically oriented elements of the intelligence community. This panel would fully investigate the desirability and impact of converting to the metric system for intelligence reporting, determine the optimum transitional procedure and timing, and identify the elements of the community which would be affected initially.

^{report the findings and recommendations to the USIB for Board consideration by}
3. The principle factors which argue for early adoption of the metric system are:

What recommendations?
31 Oct 1973